

REMARKS

The office action allows claims 18-24, 37-39 and 43. Claims 8-14 are indicated as allowable and objected to as dependent on a rejected claim. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 33-36 and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-7, 25-36 and 40-42 are cancelled without prejudice and with applicant reserving the right to file a continuing application to this subject matter.

Claims 8, 11 and 14 have been rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 9-10 depend from claim 8 and claims 12-13 depend from, directly or indirectly, from claim 11. Accordingly, claims 8-14 are in allowable form.

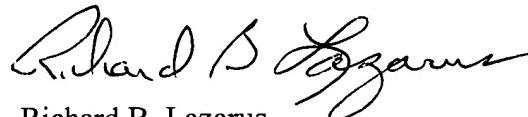
Claims 15-17 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 8.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the pending claims (Nos. 8-24, 37-39 and 43) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that resolution can be promptly effected.

A request for a one-month extension of time accompanies this amendment. It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (27726-94926).

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP



Richard B. Lazarus
Reg. No. 48,215
Tel. No. (202) 371-6348